

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 OMB-01 OPR-02 SY-03 A-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 042141

R 011517Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8294

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3593

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA AND RVOG BROADCAST APRIL 1 STATEMENT OF MOD GEN. ABIY ABEBE. STATEMENT ASSERTS THAT IEMF HAD FOILED MARCH 25 PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT. MOD EXPLAINED THAT IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS CLAIMING REPRESENT ARMED FORCES HAD TRIED PERSUADE "PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY" TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR ATTEMPT. PLOT HAD BEEN ABORTED AND SOME PLOTTERS ARRESTED. ABIY THEN SAID THAT "SOME PLOTTERS STILL TRYING TO DISTURB PEACE OF COUNTRY BY INCITING CIVIL WAR". HE CLOSED WITH REAFFIRMATION THAT THESE DISSIDENTS HAD NO RPT NO CONNECTION WITH IEMF.

2. COMMENT: ADDIS DIPLO CIRCUIT ABUZZ OVER WEEKEND WITH REPORTS OF ALLEGED "ULTIMATUM" BY AIRFORCE ACTIVISTS TO IEG. AIRFORCE DEMANDS SAID HAVE INCLUDED IMMEDIATE RELEASE ARRESTED PERSONNEL; IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION PROMISES ALREADY MADE (I.E. PAY, CORRUPTION PURGE, ETC.); CLEAR STATEMENT OF IEG POLICY INTENTIONS FORTHWITH AND EXPLICIT STATEMENT THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REGARD CONFIDENTIAL

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AIRFORCE DISSIDENTS AS TRAITORS. ALTHOUGH WE TEND TO

BELIEVE THESE REPORTS FOUNDED WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET
BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THEM. ABIY STATEMENT COULD FIT
WITH FOREGOING. IF SO, AIRFORCE DISSIDENTS WILL BE
DISPLEASED BY ITS TENOR.

3. MOD STATEMENT ALSO NOTEWORTHY FOR "PEACE OF COUNTRY"
FORMULATION WHICH COULD WELL PROVE REFERENCE TO PERSISTANT
RURAL DISORDERS NOTABLY AFFECTING GROWING NUMBER OF
PROVINCIAL CENTERS, (VIZ. MAKALLE, ARBA MINCH, AWASSA,
NAZARETH, JIMA, NEKEMPTE, METTU, DIRE DAWA AND DESSIE.)
AND FOR FLAT ASSERTION THAT RADICAL ELEMENTS CONTINUING
EFFORTS EXACERBATE INTERNAL STRESSES (CF. ADDIS 3532
PARA 3 AND 4).

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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